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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 9-13 are pending in this application. All of the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Staples. Claims 1, 2, and 13 are currently amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

This application was discussed by Examiner Syed Zia and Applicant's attorney Holmes Anderson in an interview on Dec 2, 2005. During the course of that interview it was agreed that while Staples shows redirection of communications between common types of access devices, Staples fails to show redirection of communications between disparate types of access devices. Hence, Staples shows fax-to-fax redirection and wired telephone-to-wired telephone redirection, but does not anticipate wireless telephone-to-fax redirection, email-to-wired telephone redirection, or instant message-to-fax redirection, to name just a few possible examples of redirection of communications between disparate types of access devices. Although the claims were previously amended to emphasize this distinguishing limitation, the Examiner indicated that the claims must also recite physical structure and interconnection of that structure in order to be allowable.

Applicant has amended the claims accordingly. For example, claim 1 now recites steps performed by a "personal communications portal device," which is the term used in the specification and figures. Similarly, claim 13 now recites that the processor and memory are in the personal communications portal device, thereby drawing a distinction between the elements of that device and the recited gateways. Since claim 22 is a means-plus-function claim, adding such structure that claim would not be sensible. Having inserted the requested structure in claims 1 and 13 using the original terms from the specification and drawing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections now be withdrawn and the pending claims be allowed.

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Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Holmes W. Anderson, Attorney for Applicants, at 978-264-4001 (X305) so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dec. 19, 2005
Date

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Docket No. NTL-3.2086/ 120-308
Dd: 12/21/2005